

VERMONT WETLAND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Date:	1993-94
Organizational Structure:	Component of Vermont Recreation Plan. Wetlands Advisory committee of 84 contacts.
Consensus:	Sought 100%. Final strategy acceptable to all entities.
Coordinated by:	Wetlands Office of Agency of Natural Resources
Public Involvement:	Interviews of business, conservation organizations, government agency representatives; representatives from other interstate initiatives, university professors. Public meetings and opportunity to comment on draft document.
Process	Internal preliminary meetings. Three large meetings and one final meeting over 4-5 month period.
Components:	<p>Executive Summary-proposes no net loss of wetlands providing significant functions and values; restoration and enhancement.</p> <p>Introduction-Wetland definition and function.</p> <p>Description of Study</p> <p>Need-identified by research and public outreach,</p> <p>Purpose and scope-goal for protection and conservation, summary of status and trends, description of existing wetland conservation efforts with evaluation of consistency, inconsistency, and gaps, recommended actions, strategy for ranking and funding programs and projects.</p> <p>Methodology-phone contact and letter, list of questions</p> <p>Past Wetland Inventories-acreage and ownership</p> <p>Functions and values</p> <p>National wetland loss</p> <p>Threats to wetlands-historic and present, with tables of losses by wetland type and project type.</p> <p>National wetlands priority conservation plan-acquisition criteria</p> <p>Existing programs-federal, state, interstate initiatives, state programs, municipal programs, private protection programs.</p> <p>Interview Results and Analysis</p> <p>Wetland protection goals-no net loss, plus restoration and enhancement</p> <p>Rules and regulation</p> <p>Implementation and enforcement</p> <p>Advanced planning and watershed approaches</p> <p>Coordinated approaches</p> <p>Definitions and delineations</p> <p>Functional assessments</p> <p>State and federal permitting</p> <p>General program coordination and consulting</p> <p>Wetland compensation and mitigation banking</p> <p>Wetland inventories</p> <p>Education and outreach</p> <p>Wetland protection incentives</p> <p>Wetland acquisition and restoration</p>

Options for action

Monitoring and evaluation-permit tracking and annual program
evaluation

Literature cited

Appendices

Invited participants

Directory of contacts

Business and industry

Conservation organizations

Interstate initiatives

University professors